



Sam Brownback

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ KANSAS

303 Hart Senate Office Building • Washington DC 20510 • (202) 224-8950

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Release

October 25, 1999

CONTACT ERIK HOTMIRE

KANSAS TO RECEIVE AID FROM AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL; SANCTIONS REFORM STILL NEEDED

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today applauded the president's signature of the Agriculture Appropriations Bill (H.R. 1906), but continued his call for reform of food and medical sanctions. The House-Senate Conference sent the Agriculture Appropriations Bill to the president on October 13, and he signed it on October 22.

"I am pleased that the president has signed the agriculture appropriations bill," Brownback said. "This bill contains over \$8 billion in emergency aid for farmers – of which Kansas farmers will see at least \$385 million in increased AMTA payments. These payments can now be set in motion within ten days – sending needed relief to Kansas farmers. However, I remain strongly disappointed that this bill failed to contain the amendment which I co-sponsored – and which passed in the Senate 70-28 – to lift unilateral sanctions on food and medicine.

"I and other farm state legislators have introduced a separate bill to repeal these sanctions. We will continue to fight on this issue. Sanctions reform could open up \$1.2 billion per year in U.S. agricultural sales. Lifting sanctions is one sure way to empower U.S. producers and open agricultural markets. This is the very essence behind the Freedom to Farm bill.

"As Congress looks at ways to improve the current ag economy – it is vital that the government fights for free trade and to open markets so that American producers have a fair playing field," Brownback said.